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SPENCER GRANGE,

Its Grape Festival

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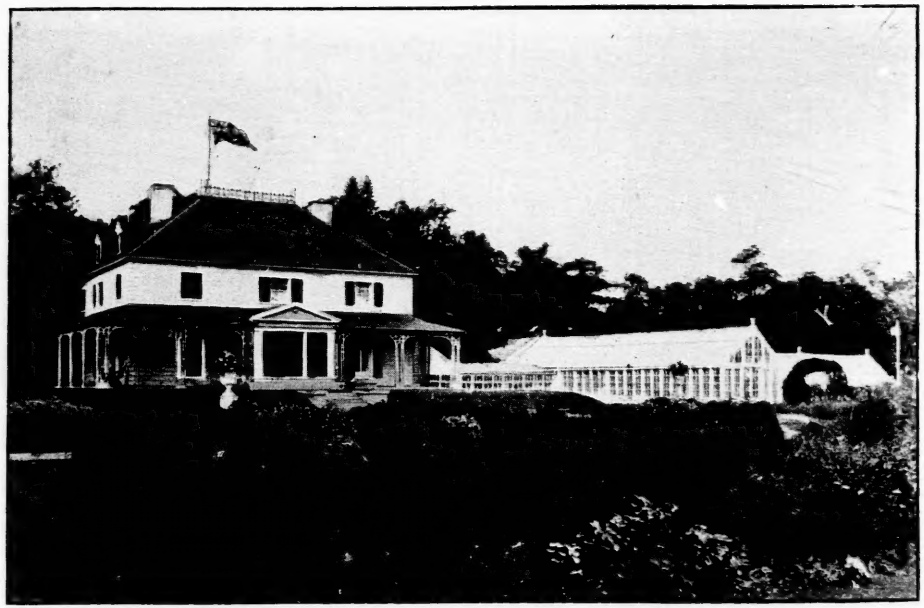


SPENCER GRANGE

ITS GRAPE FESTIVAL.

(From Montreal *Gazette*, 26th September, 1896.)

"Spencer Grange had its customary Grape Festival on the 5th inst., some thirty literary friends of Mr. LeMoine and many of his Sillery neighbors sharing in its enjoyments. The gathering on the 5th was the 32nd anniversary of the foundation of the Festival. Its beginnings were associated with the first formal steps toward Confederation and with the visit to Canada of a famous journalist and man of letters, George Augustus Sala. The latter gentleman had been sent out by the London *Telegraph* to attend the meeting of delegates and watch the proceedings on behalf of the British public. Mr. Sala, having been introduced to Mr. LeMoine, already well known by his "Maple Leaves" and "Ornithology," expressed a desire to meet some others of Quebec's literary men. As the grape season was at hand, Mr. LeMoine conceived the happy plan of inviting his friends to a grape festival. Mr. Sala's wit and Mr. LeMoine's viticulture attracted a goodly company; several of the leading *litterati* of the "ancient capital" attended: the historians Garneau, Ferland; Chevalier Jean Chs. Taché, Professor Hubert Larue, Honble. Jos. Cauchon and others. All went merry as a marriage bell. The experiment having proved so successful, Mr. LeMoine repeated it in the following year and, though Mr. Sala's inspiring converse was missed, there was no lack of native talent to add lustre to the symposium. Next year the vinery at Spencer Grange was again the scene of a happy reunion, and thus the Festival came in the course of time to be an established institution. Sala is only one of a large number of distinguished visitors who have shared the cordial hospitality of Spencer Grange. Audubon, Parkman, Sulte, Prof. J. Campbell, Professor Hy. Drummond, Geo. W. Ross, John A. Cooper, Kingsley, Hallock, Sanford Fleming, Thos. McIlwraith, Goldwin Smith, Charles Carpmael, J. W. Bengough, Cremazie, Fréchette, Chauveau, Sterry Hunt, James Hannay, Denison, Faucher de St. Maurice, Paul DeCazes, Chs. G. Roberts, Dr. Henry H. Miles, Dr. J. W.

Anderson, Jos. Marmette, Napoléon Legendre, Jos. Royal, Ernest Gagnon, Geo. M. Fairchild, jr., Marchand, Routhier, Casgrain, Dean Stanley, Howells, Kirby, Gilbert Parker, and ever so many more have spent pleasant hours or days "far from smoke of noisy town" amid that fairest of scenes with the kindest of hosts."

THE SPENCER GRANGE MUSEUM.

The Museum has been luminously described by the historian, Sulte, in the *Antiquarian Journal.* "One of the greatest attractions for us," says M. Sulte, "in visiting Spencer Grange, was its museum of Canadian birds, comprising two-thirds of the feathered tribe of the Dominion, with a fair sprinkling of foreign specimens, and a collection of bird's eggs. Each class of birds has its own corner, or judging by the label 'a habitation and a name.' The thrushes and flycatchers are particularly conspicuous from their bright tints and delicate arrow-shaped markings. The olive-grey cuckoo, a quaint and graceful minstrel in our green hedges in July, the oriole, blue jay, officer-bird, indigo-bird, and golden-winged wood-pecker, form a group of striking beauty. A succession of drawers contain the nests and eggs, scientifically labelled, of many Canadian species, as well as some of the songsters of France and England; pre-eminent among such being those of the European nightingale. Of some of the more curious of the specimens we naturally took special notice, of such as the tiny nest of a West Indian humming-bird, made out of a piece of sponge, and the cubiculum of the red-headed wood-pecker scooped out of the decayed heart of a silver-birch tree, with the eggs within, and the head peering from the orifice in the bark."

Among other oddities to be seen in this quaint spot, may be enumerated the legendary white robin of nursery rhymes, in actual fact—a specimen shot by Mr. Carl Sewell, at Deschambault; a white crow presented by W. Herring of Ravenswood; specimens of grouse, ptarmigan, and capercailzie sent from Scotland by the Hon. Adam Ferguson Blair; a Herring gull killed at Niagara Falls by W. McCallum; a Florida ibis, shot at Grondines; a splendid Bird of Paradise, a present from Spencer Wood; and a superb specimen of the great owl of the Pyrenees, *le Grand Duc,* by the French savant, Le Frère

Ogerien. A curious collection of canes attracted our attention, standing in the museum next to some rusty bayonets and venomous-looking claymores—taken from the adjoining battle-field, the Plains of Abraham. One well polished walking-stick had been hewn out of the stout ribs of the old *Orignal*, recently brought to the surface—a King's ship, wrecked whilst being launched, in the Royal Shipyard, under the French régime—(at Diamond Harbor, Quebec,) in 1750.

The pommel aptly represented a moose's antlered head, whilst the face of a French sailor was carved on another dark oak stick, recovered from the wreck of a French frigate, sunk by Admiral Byron, at Battery Point, *Baie des Chaleurs*, in 1760—both presentasions to our friend.

General Isaac Brock's cane, is a curiously carved and worm-eaten bludgeon, presented to Mr. LeMoine when president of the *Literary and Historical Society*, by Messrs. Fisher & Blouin, owners of the antique tenement occupied by the firm on Fabrique Street, Quebec, where it is said, the chivalrous soldier, Brock, resided when commanding the 49th at Quebec, in 1806.

The latest—to be converted into walking-sticks—is a heavy, dark plank, from the submerged wreck of the ill-starred French man-of-war *Elephant*, Commander M. le Comte de Vaudreuil, stranded at midnight, on the 1st of September, 1729, at *Cape Brûlé*, near Cape Tourmente, opposite to Crane Island, P. Q. The *Elephant* was bringing out from France to Quebec, several of the notable men in the colony: Bishop Dosquet, Intendant Hocquart and others who escaped a watery grave. This quaint relic of other days—after being immersed for one hundred and sixty-five years—on the rocky shores of the St. Lawrence, was fished up during the very low tides of August, 1894, and contributed to the Spencer Grange Museum by Mr. LeMoine's young kinsman, Charles LeMoyne, of the Manor House, Crane Island.

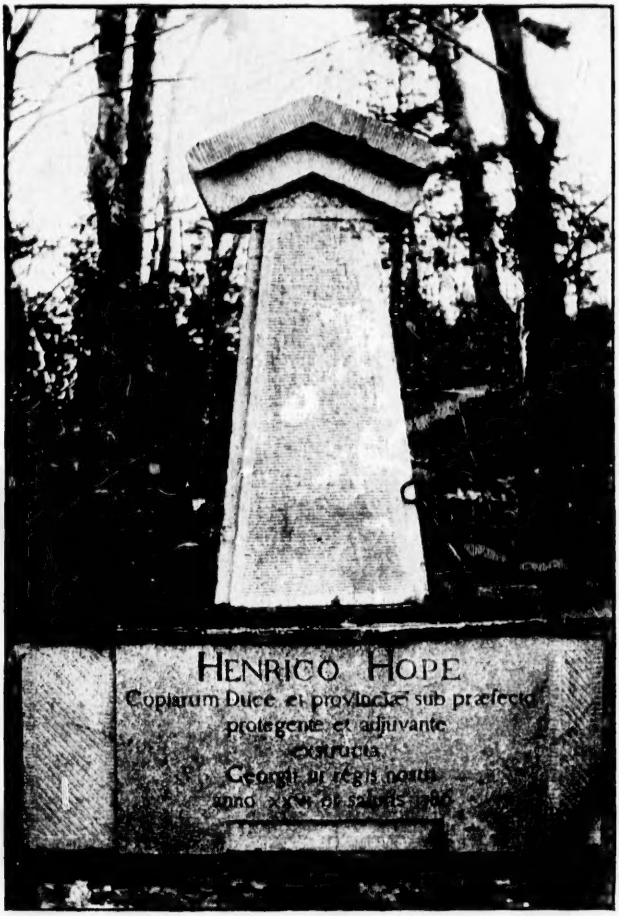
A fine set of the twelve Cæsars, in Venitian Marble, deck the gallery leading to the Vinery, whilst the Grange vestibule is studded with the heads and antlers of the Wapite, the Moose, the Virginian Deer and Cariboo. An antique Louis XIV Ormolu clock, crowned by Saturn, stands in the spacious hall, with the Roman mosaic table in the parlor, both prized family souvenirs.

Conspicuous on Audubon Avenue stands the little monument made out of stones from the old city gates, bearing the Hope Gate Inscription of 1786—presented by the City Council of Quebec in 1871. Close to it, lies a rusty old cannon, from the wreck of Admiral Hovenden Walker's fleet at English Point in 1711, presented by N. Comeau.

Its rusty appearance and corroded sides betoken its age, and one's fancy may convey him back to the olden struggles and the stern battles of days that are gone. Here is also a row of English shot and a shell, all gathered up from Wolfe's camp at Montmorency. A honey-combed iron tablet, presenting a well-defined profile of Montcalm's successful opponent, enshrouded amid flags and symbols of war, and encircled with the inscription: "In memory of Major-General James Wolfe, the Conqueror of Quebec, 13th September, 1759," must be very old, as the workmanship is very crude. Here also is a broken basaltic column from the Giant's Causeway, presented by Wm. Herring, Esq., of Ravenswood, Sillery.

Among other curiosities may be noticed the ponderous key of *old* St. Louis Gate, before it was razed in 1871; an Indian musket barrel picked up near the monument on the Ste. Foye road; a petrified purse found on the shores of Crane Island; and specimens of western Indian warfare bound with the variegated gun case of the great chief Poundmaker, presented by Fred Stimson, of Calgary.

Such are some of the attractions to this quaint *rendezvous*, without mentioning the extensive collection of historical Plates, Engravings and other *Canadiana*."


HENRICO HOPE
Copiarum Duce et provinciæ sub præfecto
protegente et adjuvante
exstructa.
Georgii ut régis nostri
anno XXVI et salutis 1786

ANNUAL GRAPE FESTIVAL, SPENCER GRANGE,

Saturday, 5th September, 1896.

INVITED GUESTS.

Sir J. Adolphe Chapleau, Lt.-Governor, Spencer Wood.
Sir Louis Napoléon Casault, Chief Justice, Londésir.
Honble. Mr. Justice Wurtële, Court of Appeals, Montreal.
" " " Bossé, " " Québec.
" " " Blanchet, " " "
" " " Andrews, Superior Court, Coucy-le-Castel.
" " " Caron, " ". Quebec.
" " " Routhier, " " "
" Evan John Price, Senator, Wolfefield.
" John Sharples, Legislative Councillor, Sillery.
" David Alex. Ross, " " Rosemont.
" Charles Ruthven, Black Rock, Connecticut.
" Mr. Nantel, Commissioner of Public Works, Montreal.
His Worship The Mayor of Quebec, Mr. Parent.
George M. Fairchild, jr., Ravenscliffe.
Wm. Herring, Ravenswood.
Gustavus G. Stuart, Meadowbank.
Vesey Boswell, The Highlands.
Honble. R. R. Dobell, Beauvoir.
Lt.-Col. Turnbull, Clermont.
Armitage Rhodes, Benmore.
Lt.-Col. Frost Wood Grey, Sillery.
Alfred P. Wheeler, Montague Cottage.
Lt.-Col. Jos. Bell Forsyth, Roslin.
Rev. Canon Von Iffland, Sillery.
John H. Holt, Bagatelle, Sillery.
Arch Campbell, Thornhill.
Siméon Lesage, Boisbrillant, Ste. Foye.
Lt.-Col. Chs. King, Spencer Wood.
L. J. Guilmartin, Loretto, Grande Allée.
Philippe Baby Casgrain, Quebec.
H. G. Goodday, Quebec.
Lt.-Col. D. C. Thomson, Quebec.
William Rae, Quebec.
Henry Atkinson, Etchemin,
Chaussegros DeLery, St. François, Beauce.
John Hale, Quebec.

Edson Fitch, Quebec.
Dr. Elliott, Quebec.
Revd. D. Macrae, Principal, Morrin College, Quebec.
Professor Wm. Crocket, " " "
Dr. Fred. Montizambert, Gen. Sup. of Quarantine, Grosse Isle.
Wm. Cook, Q. C., Mount Pleasant.
Col. Spence, U. S. Consul, Quebec.
J. Cape More, Manager Merchant's Bank.
Frank Cockburn, Montreal Bank, Quebec.
Herbert M. Price, Montmorency Cottage, Montmorency Falls.
Dr. John Harper, Inspector of Superior Schools, Quebec.
J. U. Gregory, Quebec.
George L. Maxham, Quebec.
Denny Stuart, Quebec.

The *meet* took place, as heretofore, in the centre Vinery. Reaching from end to end, a table, improvised under the hanging clusters of Black Hamburgs, had been decked by Miss LeMoine, with lovely floral decorations, in which the blushing blossoms of scarlet Geraniums blended tastefully with the amber plumes of the Goldenrod. T'was a warm September afternoon; a mellow sunshine gilded the emerald foliage of the maples yearning to don their rich autumnal tints; the Dominion flag, presented by the proprietors of neighboring country seats, gayly streamed to the breeze from the flag-staff crowning the Grange; every thing tended to adorn and enliven the *fête champêtre.*

After partaking sumptuously of the luscious Black Hamburg, Royal Muscadine, Sweet-water and Frontignan grapes—sufficiently in fact for each guest to be in a position to render an intelligent verdict on the ambrosial fruit, the health of His Honor Lt.-Governor Chapleau was proposed and cordially drank—the toast being coupled with a pleasant allusion to the distinguished and well merited imperial honours recently conferred upon him by Our Gracious Sovereign; to which Sir Adolphe replied in his usual happy and forcible style.

At 6 P.M., with the shadows of old Sol lengthening beyond the western hills, "the feast was over in Branksome tower," closing with a health heartily drank to the Laird of Spencer Grange.

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